

**NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Julia Shearer** of **North Penn High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year**. Shearer is the second Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Penn High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Shearer as Pennsylvania's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Shearer joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cy Spring High School, Texas), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City High School, Kan.), Carley Hoover (2012-13, D.W. Daniel High School, S.C.), Jenna Lilley (2012-13, Hoover High School, Ohio), Morgan Zerkle (2012-13, Cabell Midland High School, W. Va.), and Rachel Garcia (2014-15, Highland High School, Calif.).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-8 junior left-handed pitcher had led the Knights (23-1) to the Class 6A state tournament. Shearer owned a 23-1 record with a 0.30 ERA through 24 games and fanned 267 batters in 140 innings pitched, walking just 18. She also batted .603 with six home runs and 24 RBI. The MVP of the 2021 Class 6A state championship game, she was a First Team All-State selection and is ranked as the nation's No. 33 prospect in the Class of 2023 by Extra Inning Softball.

Shearer has raised funds to benefit pediatric cancer research and has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball programs. "Julia Shearer is the best player I've seen in the last 10 years," said Tim Quense, head coach at Neshaminy High School. "She is a real five-tool player. She can soft slap, hard slap and swing away with power. She runs the bases with speed and smarts. And she's the best pitcher we've seen."

Shearer has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Shearer joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Mady Volpe (2020-21, North Penn High School), Marissa Trivelpiece (2019-20, Hazleton Area High School), Brianna Peck (2018-19, Spring-Ford Area High School), and Lexi Wagner (2017-18, Seton LaSalle Catholic High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Shearer has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Shearer is also eligible to submit a short video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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